# **WASHINGTON STATE PATROL**

QUARTERLY REPORT FOR AGENCY BUREAUS JANUARY – MARCH 2003



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# Message from the Chief



Chief Ronal W. Serpas

I am proud to present you with the Washington State Patrol's *January-March 2003 Quarterly Report* of our services. This report features the first three months of 2003 accomplishments of each of our six agency bureaus: Management Services, Field Operations, Investigative Services, Technical Services, Fire Protection, and Forensic Laboratory Services. All of the bureaus in the Washington State Patrol are working together to make a difference and improve the quality of life for all of the residents of Washington State.

I would like to share part of a letter I received this past week:

"Recently, I was driving from Kelso to Vancouver on I-5. It was about 3 p.m., raining like crazy and the wind was blowing gusts to 45 mph. My right front tire disintegrated at highway speed. I made it over to the

shoulder and attempted to change my tire. However, I recently had surgery, and in normal situations, I would have been on my way in no time, but after trying for awhile, I gave up. Shortly thereafter, the WSP pulled up behind me, hopped out, and with a smile and good cheer, changed my tire for me in no time. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all the WSP. It felt fantastic to be 'covered' by our WSP family."

I wanted to share this letter because it illustrates what the men and women do every day throughout the Patrol—not just in enforcement and education, but helping thousands of motorists every day. We make a difference in people's lives. The successes that come out of each of the bureaus are a tribute to each and every employee, whose dedication and commitment to the quality of life for the citizens of Washington is paramount. They are focused on a defined mission of public safety.

I invite your comments and questions and encourage you to e-mail me at questions@wsp.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

CHIEF RONAL W. SERPAS

#### On the cover:

Field Operations Bureau: Trooper Troy Heidal stands before "Click It Or Ticket" sign in Tacoma; Forensic Laboratory Services Bureau: Forensic Scientist Raymond Kusumi doing ballistics testing; Management Services Bureau: Management Analyst Kimberly Bush (Research and Planning) checking her reference material; Fire Protection Bureau: Ron Bowen, Deputy State Fire Marshal, inspects hazardous substance; Investigative Services Bureau: Sue Wagner, Missing Children Clearinghouse Director (inset) and her two nephews, Jackson and Johnathan, whom she refers to as "her inspiration"; Technical Services Bureau: Ravinder Rohila, Customer Services Specialist with the Identification Section.

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# Diane C. Perry, CPA Bureau Director Management Services Bureau

The Management Services Bureau is responsible for management of all agency financial activities; preparation, justification, and allotment of the department's operating and capital budgets; fiscal notes on proposed legislation; human resource services to Washington State Patrol employees, the agency, and the public; comprehensive facilities management; performance of agency studies, research, revisions to manuals,



performance measures, and regulation development; purchasing and management of supplies; and management of the fleet of Washington State Patrol pursuit and other vehicles.

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The WSP conducts a written promotional examination for troopers to advance to sergeant biannually. The agency recently completed the Sergeants' Written Promotional Examination for 2003. Qualified applicants were advised of the study materials six months prior to the examination. The examination is designed to reward initiative, and the test scores clearly reward the participants' amount of study; 89% of those who studied the most advanced—only 17% of those who did not study at all advanced. Data from four validity studies all indicate the examination is a valid indicator of the troopers' promotability.

There were 202 qualified applicants tested, which included 9 females and 34 minorities. Projections indicate significantly more women and ethnic minorities will be eligible for the '05 and '07 Sergeant Examinations.

## QUALITATIVE OR QUANTITATIVE MEASUREMENT

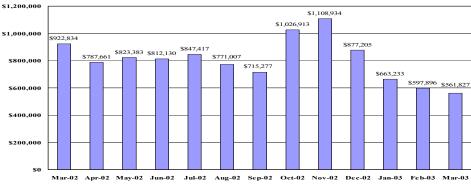
The WSP has reduced the agency's past due debt from over \$1.1 million to under \$600,000 in a four-month period. This is the agency's lowest amount of outstanding debt in the past four years.

The reduction was accomplished by providing more persistent collection efforts on many small private business and local government accounts as well as several large federal accounts.

# SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The WSP was very fortunate to receive sponsorship for three commissioned women to attend the Women in Policing Leadership Conference in Los Angeles this month. The funding was received





through a grant from the Massena Foundation, a small Seattle-based foundation. They have committed a significant portion of their annual grant funds to the WSP for this conference and another conference later this year.

# Lowell M. Porter Deputy Chief Field Operations Bureau

The Field Operations Bureau (FOB) is primarily responsible for traffic law enforcement, collision investigation, and motorist assists on 17,524 miles of state and interstate highways. The bureau is comprised of eight districts, the Special Operations Division, Aviation Section, Executive Protection Unit, Canine Unit, Explosives Unit, Honor Guard, and Vessel and Terminal Security. There are a total of 811 traffic officers assigned to FOB.



#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Field Operations Bureau has defined its core mission as addressing **DUI**, **Speed**, **Aggressive Driving**, and **Occupant Protection** (those violations that cause the most collisions and/or injuries). By focusing our efforts on these "core mission" areas, we have realized significant increases in each of these focus areas.

## QUALITATIVE OR QUANTITATIVE MEASUREMENT

The table below reflects the results of our efforts in the first quarter of 2003 compared to the first quarter of 2002:

	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2002	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2003	Difference	Percent Change
DUI	3,917	5,065	1,148	29%
Aggressive Driving	5,603	10,335	4,732	84%
Speed Arrests	49,694	68,295	18,601	37%
Speed Contacts	109,227	140,462	31,235	29%
Occupant Protection (Arrests)	13,873	23,480	9,607	69%
Occupant Protection (Contacts)	18,142	29,268	11,126	61%
Total Violator Contacts	324,720	374,429	49,709	15%

The desired outcome of our enforcement efforts is to improve public safety. Collisions in the first quarter of 2003 compared to the first quarter of 2002 decreased by **18**%; injury collisions alone were reduced by **16**%. Moreover, fatality collisions, comparing the first quarter of 2003 to 2002, on interstate highways were reduced by **42**% while injury collisions on the same highways reduced by **25**%. This has been achieved while vehicle miles traveled on state roadways have increased an estimated 2% to 3%.

	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2002	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2003	Difference	Percent Change
Total Reportable Collisions	7,799	6,860	(939)	-12%
Fatal Collisions	69	61	(8)	-12%
Injury Collisions	2,637	2,209	(428)	-16%
Property Damage	5,093	4,590	(503)	-12%

#### SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The WSP Field Operations Bureau (FOB) is actively involved in many areas designed to protect the citizens who travel throughout Washington State. While pursuing the successes listed, the personnel assigned to FOB have made great impact in several additional areas:

#### FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU

(CONTINUED)

The WSP has developed a model for deploying canine troopers and line troopers in tandem to focus on serious highway crimes. These teams are called "Serious Highway Crime Action Teams," or SHCAT. The teams have proven to be highly successful in apprehending DUIs and aggressive drivers, and in detecting non-driving crimes such as narcotics trafficking and weapons violations, each district has developed and implement a SHCAT Team to focus on serious crimes committed on state highways.

For the first quarter of 2003, the SHCAT Teams have conducted 6,286 traffic stops; arrested 103 DUIs; contacted 248 aggressive drivers; made 504 misdemeanor arrests and 79 felony arrests; seized 157 kilograms of marijuana and 1,799 grams of methamphetamine; seized 26 weapons; and arrested 202 individuals with misdemeanor or felony warrants.

A standardized *Aggressive Driver Apprehension Team (ADAT) program* was developed to combat Washington's road rage and aggressive driving problem. Grant monies were identified to provide unmarked, non-traditional patrol cars for use as ADAT vehicles in each district. As of March 2003, 19 non-traditional patrol cars are being used as ADAT vehicles, and grant monies have been secured to purchase 12 additional ADAT vehicles in 2003.

For the first quarter of 2003, WSP enforcement personnel have contacted 10,335 aggressive drivers—an 84+% increase in comparison to the same time period the previous year. Moreover, the Patrol's ADAT Teams account for less than 2% of the total field force FTEs, but made 17+% of the total aggressive driver contacts.

A standardized **Warrant Apprehension Team (WAT) program** was developed to locate and arrest those individuals who are wanted on outstanding warrants resulting from an arrest by a trooper. In partnership with the courts and prosecutors' offices, those individuals who are recidivists and pose the most danger to the public are identified and apprehended.

During the first three months of 2003, WAT members have made 571 warrant arrests, with a total bail amount of \$1,449,898. The Warrant Teams have proven successful in getting our most dangerous drivers off the roads while supporting our core mission outcome of reducing collisions, injuries, and deaths on our highways.

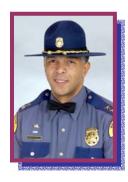
Each one of the WSP's eight districts is continuously updating plans for events involving **Protestors and Activists**. Officers of the WSP are provided with ongoing training in handling demonstrations, both peaceful and event-filled. The personnel assigned to the FOB will react quickly and decisively to activate plans and deal with the protesters in a way that is best for everyone concerned.

The FOB has been providing personnel assigned to Districts 1 (Tacoma/Olympia), 2 (Bellevue/Seattle), and 7 (Marysville), as well as other areas, to address the numerous demonstrations associated with "Operation Iraqi Freedom." This activity has included the use of the WSP Civil Disturbance Action Teams from several areas. The numerous demonstrations have involved over 1,900+ hours of officers' time.

The role of the WSP is to ensure that both citizens' First Amendment rights are protected and that public safety is maintained in relationship to pedestrian and traffic movement. During times like these, it can be a complex balance. The WSP continues to work with all citizens to ensure these rights are protected and any disruption is kept to a minimum.

# Maurice C. King Deputy Chief Technical Services Bureau

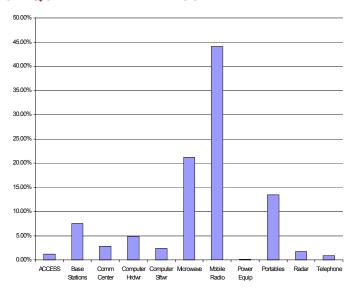
The Technical Services Bureau provides many diverse services to the entire department, other law enforcement and government agencies, and members of the general public. The services include information technology, employee training and development, electronic and microwave system services, emergency communications, and criminal history.



#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Washington State Patrol owns, operates, and maintains Washington's statewide emergency communication system. The system consists of several different technologies critical to public safety. The graph depicts the hours spent by Washington State Patrol personnel in support of the many technologies comprising the statewide emergency communication system.

## QUALITATIVE OR QUANTITATIVE MEASUREMENT



Percentage of time technicians in the Electronic Services Division devoted supporting State Patrol equipment during February 2003.

### SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT

The WSP recently finalized the connection of Department of Health radios. These radios compose the Washington Hospital and EMS Emergency Radio System (WHEERS). WHEERS is a statewide radio system that is based upon the WSP's microwave network.

WHEERS is used to coordinate the activity of airborne or mobile medical personnel with hospital emergency rooms located throughout the state. The conversations of medical personnel occurring on WHEERS will now be broadcast statewide when medical personnel activate any one radio. This will allow statewide coordination of medical response. WHEERS is a key asset for statewide interoperability between medical personnel and hospitals.

WHEERS radios were installed and are maintained by WSP Senior Telecommunication Specialists.

# Steven T. Jewell Deputy Chief Investigative Services Bureau

The Investigative Services Bureau consists of five divisions that provide various public services, including the investigation of computer crimes, missing children, narcotics, dismantling of clandestine labs, and the gathering of criminal intelligence; public records and records retention; inspection of commercial vehicles and school buses; and fatality and criminal investigations.



#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

#### THE WSP EVIDENCE SYSTEM

The WSP is responsible for the integrity of property and evidence collected by WSP employees throughout the entire state. During the first quarter of 2003, over 4,284 different items of evidence were logged into the WSP's evidence system. Among these items were 110 weapons, over 1,610 drug evidence items, 126 vehicles, and over \$261,173 in seized or found currency.

## QUALITATIVE OR QUANTITATIVE MEASUREMENT

EVIDENCE INVENTORY TOTALS								
	Mar. 2003	Feb. 2003	Change	Change (%)	2003 YTD	2002 YTD	Change	Change (%)
Property/ Evidence	39,579	38,414	1,165	3%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
# of Articles	1,406	1,328	78	6%	4,284			#DIV/0!
# of Drugs	536	504	32	6%	1,610			#DIV/0!
# of Guns	31	36	-5	-14%	110			#DIV/0!
# of Vehicles	41	35	6	17%	126			#DIV/0!
Securities	165,949	40,046	125,903	314%	261,173			#DIV/0!
Property # Issued	968	927	41	4%	2,983	2,644	339	13%
Error Rating	52 (5%)	43 (5%)	9	21%	109	N/A	N/A	N/A

# INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU (CONTINUED)

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

MECTF was formed to assist law enforcement agencies, state agencies, and the proper custodial entity by conducting investigations on missing, abducted, and exploited children cases through referrals, on-site assistance, case management, and training. The primary objectives for MECTF are the safe recovery and return of children, providing assistance to requesting law enforcement and state agencies, and providing a resource in investigative expertise



#### Back row:

Det. Reggy Chapman Sgt. Chris Gundermann

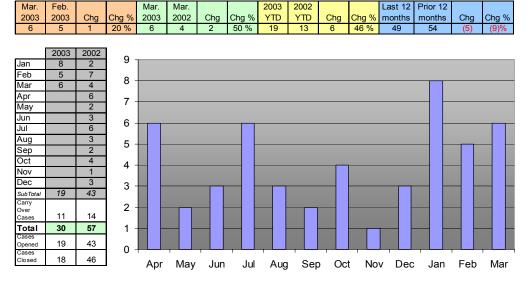
Sgt. Keith Huntley

#### Front row:

Det. Char Pesznecker Det. David Bangart

## QUALITATIVE OR QUANTITATIVE MEASUREMENT

The Missing and Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF) completed 18 cases in first quarter 2003, which is a 20 percent increase in comparison to the same time period the previous year. The completed cases include child pornography, custodial interference, sexual exploitation, and runaway investigations.

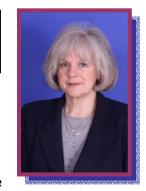


#### SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MECTF continues to work collaboratively with local and federal law enforcement to protect, prevent, and locate children. For example, in March 2003, MECTF detectives working in partnership with US Customs, Seattle Police, Covington Police Department and the local Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force worked a tip that originated out of Dallas Texas involving a suspect who was distributing child pornography over the Internet. The suspect was identified, contacted, and provided a statement to MECTF detectives confessing to possessing hundreds of illegal depictions of children. Further, examination of an unrelated MECTF case in Washington revealed a link to this suspect.

# Mary L. Corso Bureau Director Fire Protection Bureau

The Office of the State Fire Marshal, Fire Protection Bureau, provides services to fire districts, government agencies, members of the media, and the general public. These services include fire investigations; fire incident reporting and data collection; fire code review and adoption; construction plan review for fire sprinkler and alarm systems; and fire inspections of high risk occupancies housing elderly and vulnerable populations. In addition, the



bureau regulates the fireworks and sprinkler industry through a licensing program. The State Fire Training Academy provides training to the state's fire departments and districts. The Fire Protection Bureau also provides coordination of Washington State fire service resources for mobilization during natural or human-caused disasters. Terrorism and hazardous materials training, fire and life safety prevention education, and public information services are also responsibilities of the Fire Protection Bureau.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (HMEP) – IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EMD) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The HMEP grant program is intended to provide financial and technical assistance as well as national direction guidance to enhance State and local hazardous materials emergency planning and training. The grant program distributes fees collected from shippers and carriers of hazardous materials to emergency responders for hazmat training and local emergency planning committees (LEPCs) for planning.

The grant program evolved from a proposal developed by DOT, FEMA, EPA, DOL/OSHA, and DOE and has been in existence since 1974. Federal Hazardous Material law (FHML) creates an appropriate role for the federal government to provide financial, technical assistance, national direction, and guidance to enhance state and local hazardous materials emergency planning and training.

The HMEP grant program is carefully crafted to build upon existing programs and relationships and increases the emphasis on transportation of hazardous materials. The HMEP grant program was designed to support the framework and working relationships established within the National Response System and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986 (Title III).

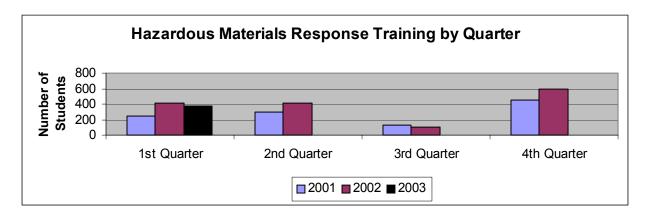
The Washington State Patrol Fire Protection Bureau, through EMD, receives \$183,000 to provide hazardous materials training to first responders on the following:

- Hazardous Materials Awareness
- Hazardous Materials Operations
- Hazardous Materials Awareness/Operations Train the Trainer
- Hazardous Materials Incident Command
- Hazardous Materials Technician

# FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU (CONTINUED)

## QUALITATIVE OR QUANTITATIVE MEASUREMENT

The following graph reflects the number of students trained by quarter:



#### SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Hazardous Materials training has been provided to the Nisqually, Chehalis, Swinomish, and Colville Tribes. The Emergency Mobilization Division is providing Hazardous Materials Awareness level training in rural areas of the state and to non-traditional first responders. This training focuses on Hazard Classes, placarding, transportation, and use of the DOT Emergency Response Guide, giving first responders the basic level of hazardous materials training. To date in 2003, we have provided training to agencies in Okanogan and Skamania Counties. We provide training to public works agencies and incident command training to radiation protection personnel in private industry.

Recently the Emergency Mobilization Division successfully co-hosted with EMD the third annual HazMat Workshop at the HAMMER Training Facility in the Tri-Cities. This training is intended for rural and volunteer departments, as well as non-traditional first responders such as hospitals and public works. The level of training is considered less technical as other training and provides education at the Awareness and Operations level. The conference saw a 32% increase in participation over the 95 attendees of 2002.

# Dr. Barry K. Logan Bureau Director Forensic Laboratory Services Bureau

The Forensic Laboratory Services Bureau (FLSB) provides a wide range of forensic science expertise to city, county, and state law enforcement officers, assisting agencies at crime scenes, preparing evidence for trials, and providing expert testimony. The bureau coordinates the efforts of the State's Breath Alcohol Test Program, Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program, six Crime Laboratories, the Latent Print Laboratory, and the State Toxicology

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Laboratory.

With the formation of the Forensic Laboratory Services Bureau in 1999, the Washington State Toxicology Laboratory became one of three divisions within the new bureau of the WSP. The laboratory performs police investigation toxicology for all law enforcement agencies within the state of Washington and death investigation toxicology for the coroners and medical examiners in all 39 counties within the state. There are 11 forensic toxicologists in the laboratory, nine of which are analysts, one supervisor, and a laboratory manager. The laboratory tests approximately 8,000 cases per year.

Forensic toxicology is the study of drugs and poisons and the medico-legal implications of their use. Scientists at the Washington State Toxicology Laboratory conduct testing on samples submitted in suspicious deaths, homicides, suicides, and unexplained deaths and assist the county coroners and medical examiners in certifying the most appropriate cause and manner of death in each case. The laboratory also receives specimens taken by law enforcement officers in investigation of cases involving alcohol or drug use, such as impaired driving, drug-facilitated sexual assault ("date rape"), and alcohol offenses such as over-serving or serving to minors. Using state-of-the-art techniques such as gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GCMS), and immunoassay, the scientists are able to detect amounts of a billionth of a gram of many drugs and chemicals in biological samples.

Having a single laboratory to serve the entire state is very useful in that it provides a single repository for all toxicology data, which allows tracking trends in drug and alcohol use in these populations. In the first quarter of 2003, the laboratory received 1,869 cases altogether, an increase of 6% over the same quarter last year, and up 15% over the last two years. While cases in all categories were up, the greatest increase is in impaired driving cases, which have increased 20% over the same quarter last year. These increases in impaired driving cases can be attributed to an increased awareness by police officers of this crime and their improved ability to identify drug-impaired drivers through better training.

## QUALITATIVE OR QUANTITATIVE MEASUREMENT

Drug-impaired driving is an issue that has received more attention from law enforcement agencies over the last three years. Individuals can be impaired not only by recreational drugs, but also by their prescription medications. The table below shows the most frequently encountered drugs, showing the increase in these cases over the first quarter 2003 compared to the same period last year. In spite of these increases in workload and the loss of some experienced staff, the State Toxicology Laboratory has met its goal of keeping turnaround time

# FORENSIC LABORATORY SERVICES BUREAU (CONTINUED)

on these cases at less than 10 days. This is an excellent record within the industry where turnaround times in other states are often more than 60 days.

	Jan - Mar 2002	Jan - Mar 2003	Change (%)
Methamphetamine	72	100	38.89
Methadone	17	30	76.47
Marijuana	226	394	74.34
Cocaine	42	59	40.48
Morphine	20	33	65.00
Hydrocodone	18	20	11.11
Zolpidem	12	11	-8.33
Diazepam	39	58	48.72
Alprazolam	15	17	13.33
Lorazepam	5	16	220.00
Diphenhydramine	14	12	-14.29
Meprobamate	39	33	-15.38

Once the analytical work on these cases is completed, the real challenge begins. The toxicologists serve as experts, advising prosecuting attorneys on the meaning of the results, the likely effects on a person's driving, factors which might increase or decrease the likely effects, and what the impact of the drug use might be on a person's driving ability. Prosecuting attorneys take this into account when deciding whether there is sufficient evidence to charge a case, and will also use the toxicologist as an expert witness during trial to educate the judge or jury about what the drug is and what its effects might be.

This out-of-court contact between the prosecutor and the toxicologist helps ensure that people are not prosecuted simply for having the drug in their system, but when they are demonstrably under its influence.

Among the drugs of greatest concern, because of its ability to impair drivers, is methamphetamine. Methamphetamine is readily produced in small clandestine labs from easily obtainable household chemicals by individuals with little or no chemistry training. The drug acts as a stimulant on the central nervous system, causing intense stimulation and euphoria, distraction, exaggerated feelings of great power and ability, agitation, nervousness, and psychomotor impairment. Additionally, after the initial effects wear off, the user can become fatigued, depressed, irritable, drowsy, and uncontrollably sleepy. During both phases, these individuals are a danger to themselves and others when they operate a vehicle.

### SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

By using their unique abilities, training, equipment, and resources, the staff at the State Toxicology Lab makes a significant contribution to highway safety and to our great quality of life in Washington.